

## Claims

- 1 1. A method for loading a software platform onto a computer system, comprising the  
2 following steps.
  - 3 providing a control file having entries of computer system identifiers;
  - 4 designating a computer system and a software platform using an interface;
  - 5 and
  - 6 querying the control file to identify an entry having computer system  
7 identifiers that pertain to the designated computer system.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
  - 2 creating a boot disk; and
  - 3 loading the designated software platform onto the designated computer  
4 system using the boot disk.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the designating step comprises the steps of:
  - 2 entering particular computer system identifiers into the interface; and
  - 3 selecting a particular software platform using the interface.
- 1 4. The method of claim 3, wherein the entering step comprises the steps of:
  - 2 entering a particular computer model identifier into the interface; and
  - 3 entering a particular computer submodel identifier into the interface.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the entries in the control file further comprise  
2 support data.

1 6. The method of claim 5, wherein the support data comprises licensing data and  
2 technical data.

1 7. The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of displaying the support data  
2 from the identified entry.

1 8. The method of claim 7, wherein the designated software platform is loaded onto  
2 the computer system based upon the support data.

1 9. A method for loading a software platform onto a computer system, comprising the  
2 following steps:  
3 providing a control file having entries, wherein each entry comprises  
4 computer system identifiers and support data;  
5 entering particular computer system identifiers into an interface;  
6 selecting a particular software platform using the interface;  
7 querying the control file to identify an entry having computer system  
8 identifiers that match the entered computer system identifiers; and  
9 loading the selected software platform onto a computer system having the  
10 entered computer system identifiers.

1 10. The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of displaying the support  
2 data corresponding to the identified entry.

1 11. The method of claim 10, wherein the software platform is loaded based upon the  
2 displayed support data.

1 12. The method of claim 9, wherein the support data comprises licensing data and  
2 technical data.

1 13. The method of claim 9, wherein the computer system identifiers comprise a  
2 computer model identifier and a computer sub model identifier.

1 14. A method for loading a software platform onto a computer system, comprising  
2 the following steps:  
3 entering a particular computer model identifier and a particular computer  
4 submodel identifier into an interface;  
5 selecting a particular software platform using the interface;  
6 locating a control file having entries, wherein each entry comprises computer  
7 model identifiers, computer submodel identifiers, and support data;  
8 querying the located control file to identify an entry having a computer  
9 model identifier and a computer submodel identifier that match the entered  
10 computer model identifier and computer submodel identifier;  
11 displaying the support data from the identified entry; and  
12 loading the selected software platform onto a computer system having the  
13 entered identifiers based upon the displayed support data.

1 15. The method of claim 14, wherein the support data comprises licensing data and  
2 technical data.

1 16. A system for loading a software platform onto a computer system, comprising:  
2 an interface for entering computer system identifiers and for selecting a  
3 software platform;  
4 a query system for querying a control file to identify an entry in the control  
5 file having computer system identifiers that match the entered computer system  
6 identifiers; and  
7 a boot system for creating a boot disk for the selected software platform to be  
8 loaded onto a computer system having the entered computer system identifiers.

1 17. The system of claim 16, wherein the interface comprises:  
2 an entry system for entering computer system identifiers; and  
3 a selection system for selecting a software platform.

1 18. The system of claim 16, wherein the computer system identifiers comprise a  
2 computer model identifier and a computer sub model identifier.

1 19. The system of claim 16, wherein the control file comprises entries, and wherein  
2 each entry includes computer system identifiers and support data.

1 20. The system of claim 19, further comprising a display system for displaying the  
2 support data from the identified entry.

1 21. The system of claim 19, wherein the selected software platform is loaded onto  
2 the computer system based upon the displayed support data.

1 22. The system of claim 16, wherein the selected software platform is an operating  
2 system.

END9-2001-0006US1

1 23. A system for loading a software platform onto a computer system, comprising:  
2 an entry system for entering computer system identifiers;  
3 a selection system for selecting a software platform;  
4 a query system for querying a control file to identify an entry having  
5 computer system identifiers that match the entered computer system identifiers; and  
6 a boot system for creating a boot disk for the selected software platform to be  
7 loaded onto a computer system having the entered computer system identifiers.

1 24. The system of claim 23, wherein the entry system and the selection system  
2 comprise an interface.

1 25. The system of claim 23, wherein the computer system identifiers comprise a  
2 computer model identifier and a computer submodel identifier.

1 26. The system of claim 23, wherein the control file comprises entries, and wherein  
2 each entry includes a computer model identifier, a computer submodel identifier,  
3 and support data.

1 27. The system of claim 26, further comprising a display system for displaying the  
2 support data from the identified entry.

1 28. The system of claim 27, wherein the selected software platform is loaded onto  
2 the computer system based upon the displayed support data.

1 29. A system for loading a software platform onto a computer system, comprising:  
2 an interface having:  
3 an entry system for entering a computer model identifier and a  
4 computer submodel identifier; and  
5 a selection system for selecting a software platform;  
6 a query system for querying a control file to identify an entry in the control  
7 file having a computer model identifier and a computer submodel identifier that  
8 match the entered computer model identifier and computer submodel identifier;  
9 a display system for displaying support data from the identified entry; and  
10 a boot system for creating a boot disk for the selected software platform to be  
11 loaded onto a computer system having the entered computer model identifier and  
12 computer submodel identifier.



1 30. A program product stored on a recordable medium for loading a software  
2 platform onto a computer system, which when executed, comprises:  
3 an interface for entering computer system identifiers and for selecting a  
4 software platform;  
5 a query system for querying a control file to identify an entry in the control  
6 file having computer system identifiers that match the entered computer system  
7 identifiers; and  
8 a boot system for creating a boot disk for the selected software platform to be  
9 loaded onto a computer system having the entered computer system identifiers.

1 31. The program product of claim 30, wherein the interface comprises:  
2 an entry system for entering computer system identifiers; and  
3 a selection system for selecting a software platform identifier.

1 32. The program product of claim 30, wherein the computer system identifiers  
2 comprise a computer model identifier and a computer sub model identifier.

1 33. The program product of claim 30, wherein the control file comprises entries, and  
2 wherein each entry includes computer system identifiers and support data.

1 34. The program product of claim 33, further comprising a display system for  
2 displaying the support data from the identified entry, wherein the software platform  
3 is loaded based upon the displayed support data.

1 35. A program product stored on a recordable medium for loading a software  
2 platform onto a computer system, which when executed, comprises:  
3 an interface for entering computer system identifiers and for selecting a  
4 software platform;  
5 program code configured to query a control file to identify an entry in the  
6 control file having computer system identifiers that match the entered computer  
7 system identifiers;  
8 program code configured to display support data from the identified entry;  
9 and  
10 program code configured to create a boot disk for the selected software  
11 platform to be loaded onto a computer system having the entered computer system  
12 identifiers.